



The Southwester

Serving the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront Communities

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Planning Commission Accepts SW Ecodistrict Plan

Courtesy of the National Capital Planning Commission

At its monthly meeting on Jan. 10, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) accepted the SW Ecodistrict Plan. The plan proposes to transform a 15-block predominantly federal precinct located just south of the National Mall into a highly sustainable, walkable neighborhood and workplace that connects the National Mall with Washington's Southwest Waterfront and becomes a national showcase of sustainable urban development and the site for major new museums, memorials and events.

The SW Ecodistrict Plan is based on the idea that planning, implementing and operating at a neighborhood (or district) scale results in increased environmental and economic benefits rather than a traditional building by building approach. The plan proposes a development scenario where projects can be prioritized and implemented over a 20-year period as they become economically viable and align with federal and local investment priorities.

"The SW Ecodistrict Plan is the result of a terrific collaborative effort between federal and local agencies, with a great deal of public input. The plan will help federal agencies achieve the President's sustainability goals," said NCPC Chairman L. Preston Bryant. "The release of the plan is timely. We're seeing a tremendous amount of activity both in the Ecodistrict area and around it, and are thrilled at the opportunities available to create a positive transformation."

The plan's proposal to develop a coordinated approach to land use, transportation, and energy systems would result in a majority of the area's energy, water, and waste being captured, managed and then reused. Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 51 percent even with the proposed addition of 4 million sq. ft. of new devel-

A copy of the plan is available online at www.ncpc.gov/swecodistrict/media



The SW Ecodistrict in 2030. (Courtesy of NCPC. Image by ZGF Architects)

opment. Potable water consumption is reduced by 70 percent, and all the stormwater will be managed. In addition, 80 percent of everyday waste can be diverted from the landfill.

Following the Commission's action, NCPC will utilize the plan

when evaluating and making recommendations for development proposals in the SW Ecodistrict, as well as use it to guide input on federal, local and private planning studies and reports prepared for the area. While not formally applicable to District or privately-owned land, representatives are looking at ways to incorporate the plan's concepts into their own projects.

The plan was coordinated with the Maryland Avenue SW Small Area Plan produced by the District of Columbia Office of Planning.

"We are pleased to have partnered with NCPC to reimagine the Southwest federal enclave into a mixed-use and walkable neighborhood that will reconnect the National Mall to the Southwest community and waterfront redevelopment," said Harriet Tregoning, Director, District Office of Planning.

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) will initiate a technical planning study of this area focused on multi-modal transportation analysis and the more detailed design and engineering.

"The transportation infrastructure in the Ecodistrict area is some of the most complex in the District, with key arteries for multiple modes literally overlapping," said DDOT Director Terry Bellamy. "The Ecodistrict plan is the type of forward looking approach needed to make sustainable transportation and land use investment decisions."

NCPC staff, together with federal and District agencies and other stakeholders, are currently moving forward on studies to implement Ecodistrict strategies. One new study is analyzing the technical and financial feasibility of establishing an area-wide, sustainable stormwater system. They are also developing interim streetscape plans for the 10th

See "Ecodistrict," page 4

Zoning Commission Approves Phase 1 of The Wharf

The Zoning Commission approval includes:

Parcel 2: Residential, Cultural and Entertainment Venue, Retail Spaces and Combined Heating and Power Facility.

Parcel 3a: Commercial Office Building and Ground Floor Retail.

Parcel 3b: InterContinental Hotel and Ground Floor Retail.

Parcel 4: Residential Building and Two levels of Retail Space.

Parcel 11: St. Augustine's Church and Residential Building. Piers, Open Spaces and Thoroughfares: Streets, Yacht Club Piazza, Mews, Parks and New Piers. Parking and Bicycle Transit: Below-Grade Parking Facility for Cars and Bikes, Surface Parking, New Maine Avenue Bike Lane, and Completing Link of the 20-Mile Anacostia Riverwalk Trail. Wharf Kiosks: Outdoor Retail Pavilions.

Courtesy of Hoffman-Madison Waterfront

Hoffman-Madison Waterfront, the master developer of the 3.2 million square foot Southwest Waterfront project ("The Wharf"), announced on Jan. 15 the approval of its Phase 1 Planned Unit Development (PUD) by the District of Columbia Zoning Commission.

The Zoning Commission's action approves all of the architectural designs and specific plans for each parcel of the project's first phase encompassing 1.5 million square feet of residential, hotel, office and retail uses along with three piers, numerous open spaces, gathering places and a 3-acre waterfront park.

"The unanimous approval last night by the commissioners participating in the hearings is exhilarating. It creates momentum for ground breaking later this year," said Monty Hoffman, Managing Member of Hoffman-Madison Water-

See "Wharf," page 6

SWNA Accepting Nominations to its Board

It's that time again, folks! The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) is seeking qualified candidates for elected positions on its board of directors. This year's elections will be held on Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. outside of Safeway by the Waterfront metro station. This is your chance to give back to Southwest through a respected voice in our unique neighborhood, and to help continue the Southwest tradition of community!

SWNA is Southwest's 40-year-old civic association that has done a tremendous amount even during the last year to achieve its mission. Working with DC agencies and the Advisory Neighborhood Commission, SWNA "creates...social, economic, and educational opportunities for Southwesterners." SWNA has been a leader in providing young people living in Southwest access to important educational programs and computer training.

SWNA appoints 2013 elections chair – see page 2

One of the signature initiatives focuses on Lansburgh Park, where we are looking forward to a community garden and dog park. In collaboration with Councilmember Wells' office and other community organizations, SWNA organizes public events like the Titanic 100 commemoration, movie nights at the park and Town Halls on issues of common concern. The organization promotes Southwest's heritage; among other activities, it's spearheading the nomination of several Southwest properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition to these efforts, SWNA has provided critical support to emergent Southwest community organizations like Southwest Duck Pond and the Amidon-Bowen

See "SWNA Board," page 9

TENAC Receives Grant from Waterside Towers Association

Courtesy of the DC Tenants' Advocacy Coalition

The Waterside Towers Residents Association (WTRA), a leading tenants' association in the District, has awarded the DC Tenants' Advocacy Coalition (TENAC) a \$1,000 grant in recognition of its outstanding advocacy role for tenants.

The award was given in memory of Dr. Pearl Wisham Perry, a long-time resident and officer at Waterside, an outstanding figure in DC and a founding member of TENAC.

Tyrone Ron Jackson, President of WTRA, cited TENAC's work over the years, especially its forceful advocacy for rent control, affordable housing and tenant rights, noting several

of TENAC's landmark achievements, including:

Successful advocacy for an independent DC tenant agency – the Office of Tenant Advocate (OTA), and the appointment of its director, Johanna Shreve.

Successful campaign against the fraudulent "95-5" landlord scheme to retain control of rental buildings after their ostensible "sale."

Successful advocacy to extend rent control renewal from 5 to 10 years.

Also cited was TENAC's major current goal of eliminating the "plus 2 percent" from the annual DC rent increase formula. TENAC considers the landlord "Market Rate Rent" mantra to be unfair, making the city unaffordable and driving poor people from it.

SWNA Appoints Morgan Gable to Chair 2013 Elections

Courtesy of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of SW resident Morgan Gable as chair of the elections which will be held on Saturday, March 9, from 10 am to 3 pm outside of Safeway by the Waterfront metro station.

A first-time homeowner at River Park Mutual Homes, Inc. since July 2009, Gable has been a District resident since July 2007, including residing in the metro area since 2006. She currently serves as a health legislative representative for Leading Age, a nonprofit organization in Woodley Park which advocates on behalf of its more than 6,000 members and provides housing and services to older adults throughout the country.

In addition, Gable currently serves as Vice President of the Board of St. Mary's Court, a low-income older adult community located in the city's Foggy Bottom neighborhood.

She has recently begun to volunteer at Miriam's Kitchen, a nonprofit organization working to end homelessness in the District. A native of Johnstown, PA, Gable holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Chatham University and a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan.

In her spare time, Gable enjoys playing on a competitive traveling local women's ice hockey team and is an avid Pittsburgh Penguins' hockey fan.

■ *Thelma Jones, former SWNA Nominating Chairperson for more than 10 years, contributed to this article.*



Commissioners Sworn In

ANC 6D Commissioners after being sworn in on Jan. 2 at the Convention Center include (from left) Donna Hopkins, Roger Moffatt, Andy Litsky, Ed Kaminski, Rhonda Hamilton and Ron McBee. Not pictured is David Garber. Hopkins and Kaminski are newly elected members of ANC 6D. (Photo by Perry Klein)

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*Source: Preventable Risk Factors Attributed to Preventable Causes of Death in the District of Columbia, 2007, Department of Health Center for Policy, Planning, and Epidemiology, State Center for Health Statistics

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ANC 6D Seeks Plan for Public Lands

By the Southwester Staff

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6D on Jan. 14 unanimously adopted a resolution asking the District of Columbia not to take any substantial action regarding the use of public lands in Southwest until a Small Area Plan is completed by the DC Office of Planning.

The commission action asks that Mayor Vincent Gray and his administration take no substantial action related to public land uses – in particular, to possible development of public lands at or adjacent to the Randall Recreation Center – until the Southwest community has been fully engaged in the discussion and until a Southwest Small Area Action Plan has been completed.

The resolution reads, in part, “the Small Area Action Plan seeks to ensure an organized, inclusive and thoughtful planning process is

completed for the Southwest Neighborhood – an area with substantial public-owned land assets and that such land is not developed absent community benefit.”

The commission resolution seeks “a coordinated approach to public park and space improvements, placement and integration of community amenities and effective multi-modal transportation options.”

It concludes, “the Small Area Plan will be a useful tool to organize community and stakeholders in order to increase the efficient delivery and coordination of necessary neighborhood improvements and minimize conflict between stakeholders amidst significant neighborhood change.”

For more information about the resolution, contact Andy Litsky, ANC 6D Chairman, at 202-554-8070 or alitsky@aol.com.

The full text of the resolution is available online at www.thesouthwester.com.

Southwest Real Estate Update: December

Rarely in a real estate market can you say that it’s a great time to buy and simultaneously a great time to sell but this is the case right now. With interest rates still low it’s tough not to make a case for buying. At the same time, inventory remains low so it’s also a good time to sell. This will be a very interesting year in the local real estate market as DC continues to outshine most of the country. (The information below is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.)

	December 2012	December 2011	% Change
Sold Dollar Volume	\$3,770,000	\$4,956,950	-23.95%
Avg Sold Price	\$314,167	\$309,809	1.41%
Median Sold Price	\$331,000	\$364,000	-9.07%
Units Sold	12	16	-25.00%
Avg Days on Market	43	45	-4.44%
Avg List Price for Solds	\$319,342	\$322,972	-1.12%
Avg Sale Price to Original List Price Ratio	97%	93.30%	4.10%

■ Courtesy of Jason Martin, a real estate professional & resident of Southwest. He may be contacted at (202) 641-0299 or by e-mail at jason@jasonmartingroup.com.

ANC 6D Meeting

Proposed 12-Story Building for South Capitol Street is Rejected

By B.K. Lunde

Two new Commissioners made their first appearances at the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D meeting on Jan. 14. They are Ed Kaminski and Donna Hopkins. Ed Kaminski was elected vice chair and Donna Hopkins was elected secretary of the commission for 2013.

Ed Kaminski made an effort to explain the reason for a resolution that was being passed. The resolution requested that the mayor delay any substantial development in Southwest until a Small Area Plan is made. He said that Southwest has a lot of public land and developers are making proposals for pieces of it, but the area should have a comprehensive plan before individual areas are allocated.

Donna Hopkins moved to end debate on a request by the DC Department of Transportation for the ANC to approve erection of a one hundred foot by one hundred foot tent in Lansburg Park during the inauguration. The discussion had strayed from the subject. Debate was stopped and the vote was unanimous to support the tent. Donna also acted as secretary during the meeting.

Eulois Clechly of the DC Department of Transportation reported on the preparations for the inauguration. The crowd is expected to be less than half of that at the inauguration four years ago, but many streets will be blocked off and parking of cars and buses will only be allowed in certain areas.

Martin Welles announced that the Amidon-Bowen PTA meets on the second Tuesday at 6 p.m. It will meet on February 12 at the school.

Officer Andrew Ford, Supervisory Special Agent of the CSX railroad announced that the railroad is establishing a force of three community relations police because of the work on the Virginia Avenue tunnel. The CSX police office will be at 861 New Jersey Ave. One of the officers is a K-9 expert. He has a dog trained to detect explosives. CSX has their own security force, with 200 agents on the east coast of the country. All are welcome to call Officer Ford with any concerns about the railroad. His cell number is 215-356-0803. You can call the CSX police at 1-800-232-0144 and then press 8#, or 1-800-TELL CSX.

The commission voted unanimously to not support the plans presented by Dennis Hughes of Monument Realty for the development of a 12-story office building before the zoning Commission. The site is One M St. SE, at M St and South Capitol Street. Chairman Andy Litsky said, “We have not gotten a building that is responsive to its place.” Ed Kaminski will be the spokesperson for the ANC at the Zoning Commission.

The commission held its annual election of officers. Besides the new members being elected vice chair and secretary, Chairman Litsky was reelected and Ron McBee was elected treasurer.

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To contact the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc., please leave a message at 202-580-8188.

From The Southwester Staff

This month *The Southwester* wishes to recognize three of its most dedicated contributors, whose work you will be seeing less of in the coming months.

Meg Brinckman, a longtime contributor to *The Southwester* on education issues, will be relocating to Atlanta in March. Meg was long a dependable source of news about happenings at Amidon-Bowen Elementary, and always accompanied her articles with photos that helped Southwest residents without children at ABES reconnect with their neighborhood elementary school. A Southwest resident since 1991, Meg’s contributions to *The Southwester* will be sorely missed. We thank her for her many, many articles and wish her a stress-free relocation.

Zev Feder has contributed his “Notes on the Nats” column to *The Southwester* for years, but it will be on hiatus (temporarily, we hope) due to health concerns. *The Southwester’s* dedicated source of reflections on the Washington Nationals, sports fans will surely miss his column. We wish him a full and speedy recovery.

And last but not least: Thelma Jones – persistent advocate for local youth, chair of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly’s Youth Activities Task Force, and longtime champion of breast cancer awareness and education – hardly ever lets an issue of *The Southwester* go by without contributing an article, and this month is no different. But over the next few months she will be scaling back her involvement with the paper to focus on her health. We’re confident she can beat any malady, and a good thing too – how long can we last without our monthly dose of Thelma?

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Ice Rink Opens

Area residents enjoy the new ice skating rink at Canal Park, which has transformed an abandoned and contaminated bus parking lot into a sustainable and green neighborhood gathering place. The rink, at M and Second streets SE, is open seven days a week. For information, visit www.canalparkdc.org or call (202) 554-6051. (Photos by Saadia Athias)



Amidon-Bowen athletes place in city-wide competition

On Jan. 16, Amidon-Bowen Elementary School athletes competed in the City Wide Track and Field Championship, under the leadership of Coach Frank Briscoe. Rich Bardach provided transportation for the group to the Prince Georges Sports Complex in Landover, Md.

Tarah Lee, Murkil Copeland, Andre Porter, Heather Evans, Alphonso James, Phillip Thomas, Triana Alston, Troy Alston and Nzar Harper competed against other D.C. students. This is the first time in recent years Amidon-Bowen has participated.

Andre Porter came in first place in the shot put competition, and Tarahn Lee placed third in the triple jump.

ECODISTRICT

From p. 1

Street Corridor that will provide three concept alternatives and determine the necessary right of way width to accommodate planned programming, as well as concept designs for a temporary pedestrian connection between Banneker Park and Maine Avenue. In addition, a more detailed economic analysis will examine the costs and benefits of the development scenario, with more detail regarding impacts to specific stakeholders.

The SW Ecodistrict comprises almost 110-acres bounded by Independence Avenue, Maine Avenue, 12th Street, and 4th Street, SW. The federal government owns approximately 56 percent of the land, and 26 percent is privately owned. The remainder consists of streets, freeways, and rail lines. The district includes eight federal buildings, two federal parks, and eight private buildings. Its aging and inefficient federal buildings, tangled transportation networks and lackluster public space are ready for transformation to match its unparalleled location.

The plan provides a framework to prioritize and develop projects over a 20-year period as they become economically viable and fall within federal and local investment priorities. Bold moves are needed to realize the plan, and no one entity alone can make it a reality. Achieving the plan's sustainability measures and mixed-use vision will require partnerships between the federal government, the District of Columbia, private landowners and real estate developers. The plan identifies various governance structures, financing and policy tools, and priority projects.

The SW Ecodistrict Plan complements and informs work already underway. At one end of the site the National Park Service is making improvements to the National Mall and at the other a proposed multi-billion dollar mixed-use private development (The Wharf) along the Southwest waterfront is scheduled to break ground this year. Nearby, recognizing the area's potential and building upon the plan's momentum, private property owners are making property and infrastructure investments. Local business owners are also looking into creating

The SW Ecodistrict plan proposes four focus areas to create a revitalized neighborhood and cultural destination.

■ **Independence Quarter:** A mixed-use community anchored by a new US Department of Energy headquarters.

■ **Maryland Avenue:** A restored urban boulevard centered on a reimagined park and an expanded L'Enfant Station intermodal center.

■ **10th Street and Banneker Park:** An inviting civic corridor connecting the National Mall to the SW Waterfront, highlighted by Banneker Park—a nationally significant cultural destination.

■ **Southwest Freeway:** A collection of private mixed-use development and solar panels built on air rights over the Southwest Freeway.

a business improvement district for an area that includes the SW Ecodistrict.

The General Services Administration (GSA)

recently issued a RFI (Request for Information) seeking ideas to address long-term needs of federal facilities located in an area designated Federal Triangle South. This area sits entirely within the SW Ecodistrict.

"Federal Triangle South provides us with an opportunity to reexamine how the federal government uses its buildings and fits into the surrounding community," said General Services Administration Acting Administrator Dan Tangherlini. "Building upon the vision put forth by NCPC in its SW Ecodistrict Plan, Federal Triangle South will contribute to a more sustainable neighborhood where people will want to work, live and learn, while at the same time saving taxpayer dollars by redeveloping outdated and underutilized properties into state-of-the-art facilities."

Implementation of the SW Ecodistrict Plan will result in a revitalized, well-connected community and cultural destination. 7.9 million sq. ft. of federal office space is retained and improved, and 1 million sq. ft. of public and private office space is added. Another 1.8 million sq. ft. of new residential or hotel space and sites for 1.2 million sq. ft. of cultural facilities and five memorial sites are established.

The plan is the result of a comprehensive process led by NCPC involving 17 federal and District agencies. The final plan reflects the input of numerous federal and local stakeholders, as well as combined input from private and public property owners and the public. Through numerous public and stakeholder meetings and an online forum, more than 100 comments were received, the majority positive.

For more information about the District's projects, contact Tanya Stern, Chief of Staff, DC Office of Planning, (202) 442-7635, tanya.stern@dc.gov.

For more information about GSA's projects, contact Jackeline Stewart-Johnson, Deputy Press Secretary, General Services Administration, (202) 501-0800, jackeline.stewartjohnson@gsa.gov.

■ *The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties of Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.*

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Youth Activities Task Force Makes an Impact

By Thelma D. Jones

Ever wonder how long it takes your contribution to the SWNA Youth Activities Task Force (SWNA-YATF) to be put to use or make an impact with our youth and their families? Wonder no longer. The all-volunteer SWNA-YATF meets and considers mini grants regularly, allowing funds to be issued quickly or at an average of about \$1000 awarded monthly. During 2012, SWNA-YATF awarded the following grants:

■ Jefferson Academy for uniforms for the new girls basketball team (\$800);

■ Jefferson Academy Environmental Science Trip to Costa Rica in March (\$800);

■ SW Girls Scout Troop 4298 at King Greenleaf Recreation Center for day-long activities (\$400) and weekend camping (\$800);

■ Kemet Productions to purchase costumes for SW kids to participate in the December production of "The Nutcracker" and "Mouse King" at Howard University's Blackburn Center (\$800);

■ King Greenleaf pilot program against bullying for girls (\$800); and

■ Computer-for-Kids Computer Training Program for nutritional snacks after class (eight weeks) and graduation (\$150).

In addition to the grants above, SWNA-YATF continues to be one of the main supporters of the athletics programs at King Greenleaf Recreation Center at 201 N St. SW. Volunteer coaches at the recreation center start our local kids at a young age – mostly from Amidon-Bowen Elementary School – learning teamwork, following instructions, participating in and knowing the impor-



The Jefferson Middle School girls basketball team in their new uniforms, donated through a YATF SWNA grant. (Photo by Saadia Athias)

tance of warm-up drills and practicing football fundamentals of passing, blocking and running.

SWNA-YATF uses contributions from Southwest residents and others to help keep SW Wolfpack teams, consisting of up to 25 in each team of five different age groups (ages 5 through 14), training all week from April through November and competing city-wide against other neighborhoods. Each year much equipment is passed on from last year's teams, including jerseys and football pants, helmets and shoulder pads. But some always need replacing. An \$800 request from the Wolfpack teams will be considered at SWNA-YATF's January 26 meeting for equipment such as safety pads for inside the pants, mouthpieces, chinstraps, footballs and pompoms

for the cheerleaders.

The need is great and your contribution will be put to immediate use so please consider making a tax deductible contribution payable to the SWNA-YATF and forwarding it to PO Box 70131, Washington DC 20024. A \$25 contribution will help send a Girl Scout camping, purchase mouthpieces for the Wolfpack teams, purchase supplies for the girls bullying program at King Greenleaf or help to provide nutritional snacks and information for the Computer-for-Kids program.

■ Thelma D. Jones is a member of SWNA's board and the recently appointed chairperson of SWNA-YATF.

Waterfront Welcomes YaLa Fitness

By Wendy Burger

YaLa fitness was invited to the Southwest Waterfront to participate in a community fitness program open to the public on the Seventh Street landing park for the past 2 summers.

YaLa, a unique athletic dance experience, is now being offered every Saturday morning at 10 a.m. indoors at 700 Water St. The YaLa team has revived the defunct Zanzibar Nightclub and transformed it into a fitness studio. "Why not put the building to good use until it comes down as part of the waterfront development project?" asks Laurent Amzallag, creator of YaLa Fitness. "We have just taken our outdoor community building event and moved it indoors. We are providing a fitness experience unlike anything else in the area." YaLa means "Let's Go." It is a fun and challenging workout that works for you whether you are a beginner or a trained athlete, 8 to 80 years old.

Amzallag is one of DC's most sought-after fitness experts. He participated in Oprah's Live Your Best Life tour and has been featured in ELLE Magazine, describing his fitness training style as "Sexercise." He is committed to making sure participants laugh, love and dance their ways to fitter, better selves.

His 15 years of experience has made

See "YaLa Fitness," page 6

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Chinese instructor and University of Maryland MCERT candidate Xue Qin displays a flashcard reading "That's OK," (as a response to "I'm sorry"). (Photo by Meg Brinckman)



Students Try Their Hand at Chinese

By Meg Brinckman

In a continuing effort to enrich the instruction of children at Amidon-Bowen, Assistant Principal Dwayne Ham arranged for Chinese language instruction to be provided to 1st graders through the University of Maryland MCERT Program.

In the Center for Chinese Language Teacher Certification and Development at the College of Education at the University of Maryland, candidates spend a full year internship in the classroom gaining practical experience and helping to create new materials for instruction. The Program stimulates interest and sets national and international standards of excellence for Chinese language teacher preparation. It is open to student of various backgrounds and can lead to a Master's Degree or Chinese Language

Certification only. The program also offers a five-year program for undergraduates leading to a Master's Degree with certification for teaching Chinese language.

In the fall semester Qi Zhao met with Ms. Buckner's 1st grade students Monday and Wednesday. She was then assigned to another school to complete her full year internship. Starting this January, Xue Qin is assigned to Amidon-Bowen for her second semester of the internship. The instruction is organized in fast-paced, 15-minute small group sessions, with lots of visual materials adapted for young learners. Ms. Qin plans to broaden the instruction to include participation in Chinese celebrations later in the year.

■ Meg Brinckman is a longtime contributor to *The Southwester* on education issues.



Members of the Women of The Moose, Capitol Region Chapter 2406 of Washington, prepare to distribute toys at the Christmas Party held at the King Greenleaf Recreation Center in December. The chapter, the first to be located in D.C., includes (from left) Eleanor Brown, Delores Lewis, Sandra Jackson and Vanessa Anderson. (Photo by Charley Lewis)

DREAM OF SINGING in front of an audience?



▲ Professional, working singer and performer Mike Thornton now offering lessons at his SW townhouse studio.

Adults and older teenagers welcome to study with this nationally-known performer; a full-time member of the Capitol Steps, as well as renowned Jazz Singer around the US.

▲ Pop, Jazz, R&B, Soul — all styles studied with focus on technique, style, breathing technique (most important!) and learning new songs.

▲ Mr. Thornton's students will have the opportunity to perform with a professional, live trio at a local venue; singing for friends, family and the public!!

▲ Combining singing technique, song study, and style, Mr Thornton's studio allows his students to showcase their talent if desired.... Or stay in a private setting should this be more comfortable.

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Contact Mike Thornton for more info: Thorntonis@yahoo.com

SW Girl Scout Troop Update:

Get Your Cookies!

By Elizabeth Early

September 2012 marked the start of Girl Scout Troop 4298's sixth year at King Greenleaf Recreation Center. This is the first year that our troop includes Cadettes (Grades 6-8). We have four Cadettes in our troop: one founding troop member—Breanna Vann—plus Nyah Anderson, McKenzie Maddox and MarkBreanna Mathis, who all bridged from Juniors to Cadettes last year.

The Cadettes started the year with a beach retreat in Ocean City, MD where they planned this year's badges and the troop service project. We celebrated the girls' first "semester" as Cadettes with high tea at the Henley Park Hotel.

As excited as we are to have our first Cadettes, we love working with all the girls in our multilevel troop, which includes Daisies (K-1), Brownies (2-3) and Juniors (4-5). All of the levels have been working hard on their badges, learning the Girl Scout promise, contributing to the Girl Scout council's SHARE program through the troops annual Jingle Bell Jewelry Sale in December and gearing up for Cookie Sale Season. Pre-orders for Girl Scout Cookies ended mid-January, but

we will begin holding cookie booth sales on March 3. Look for us outside Safeway near the Waterfront Metro and other locations on Capitol Hill! Our planned booth sales are:

Sunday, March 3 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
– Port City Java at Eastern Market

Sunday, March 17 – 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Waterfront Safeway

Sunday, March 24 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Frager's Hardware on Capitol Hill

Cookies are \$4 a box, and 60 cents from each box sold goes directly to our troop. This money helps to fund our camping trip, badge activities, an end of the year field trip and many other programs. The camping trip is always a highlight of the year for girls and leaders alike—last year's camping trip included canoeing, cooking by campfire, hiking with a compass, star gazing and tossed homemade ice cream. Many of these experiences are a first time experience for our girls, and we hope to continue providing these opportunities.

For more information on Troop 4298 activities, membership, cookie sales, or how you can help, contact girlscoutsswdc@gmail.com or 202-570-GIRL (4475).

WHARF

From p. 1

front. "After more than six years of planning and substantial investment, we are preparing to launch one of the highest profile redevelopments in the country. We are ready to put shovels in the ground for this \$2 billion redevelopment of the Southwest Waterfront."

"The Zoning Commission's approval recognizes The Wharf's world-class team of architects, planners and engineers led by Perkins Eastman," said David Brainerd, Managing Director of Investments of Madison Marquette. "The Wharf will become a compelling waterfront neighborhood, celebrating the District's reconnection to the water while recalling the working waterfront's rich maritime history and commercial activity."

The Zoning Commission's written order is expected in the next several weeks.

"Our design goal is to reunite the city with the water's edge and enliven the waterfront with a mix of uses and year-round urban vibrancy," said Stan Eckstut, a Principal at Perkins Eastman, master planner of The Wharf. "We've designed a neighborhood of waterfront places—not a project—and each parcel and its adjacent space is independently intended to create an inviting and memorable public environment for the District of Columbia and the entire Mid-Atlantic region."

YALA FITNESS

From p. 5

him a regular fitness correspondent on NBC, FOX and CBS. Amzallag has participated in events hosted by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, which named him one of the country's top 50 trainers and he was recently named one of DC's top trainers by Washingtonian Magazine.

The energy that Amzallag brings with his YaLa workout is infectious and a "must try" for anyone looking to get fit or stay fit in a crazy fun way. YaLa is a fitness program for your body and

Consistent with the Phase 1 PUD, approved by the Zoning Commission in 2011, the Phase 2 PUD encompasses Parcels 2, 3 and 4. Additionally, in order to accomplish the development needs of St. Augustine's Church, the Phase 2 application also includes Parcel 11, as well as a new 3-acre waterfront park designed with a community charette process.

Hoffman-Madison Waterfront has developed guidelines to ensure that The Wharf has been designed in accordance with LEED-ND Gold objectives, in order to meet certification requirements and to comply with all LEED-ND criteria.

Innovative stormwater management designs have been carefully integrated into The Wharf. Significant Low Impact Development (LID) zone plantings and a monumental storm water reuse cistern that stretches beneath the entire length of The Wharf will drastically reduce or eliminate stormwater runoff that enters the Washington Channel and help improve the health of the Potomac River watershed. The Wharf's reuse of stormwater runoff for CHP cooling and the creative use of LID strategies will help the development meet the stormwater management goals of the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for 2013 and the first phase of The Wharf will open in the last quarter of 2016. More information is available at www.wharfdc.com.

soul and works it from the inside out. "Teaching others to find passion in living a healthy lifestyle is something I strive to do every day and being able to offer access to a fun and sexy workout is why I left the world of finance and business to create YaLa Fitness," says Amzallag. "Our YaLa team loves the energy and the people we have met in the Southwest community and we are so excited to bring our unique brand of fitness to the Southwest Waterfront."

■ For more information visit www.yalafitness.com.



Photos by Saadia Athias

8th Grade Cast of "Fences" at Jefferson Middle School 2nd Annual Winter Arts and Music Festival

Jefferson Academy Hosts Winter Arts and Music Festival

By Renae Ramble

Jefferson Academy hosted the Second Annual Winter Arts and Music Festival on Dec. 19. Many parents and community members attended the event to celebrate the artistic work and achievements of students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. The festival featured artwork, music ensembles and theatrical performances that students have worked on in their classes.

Led by art teacher Amanda Rogers, the 6th and 7th grade students presented both visual and digital art projects. Over 80 pieces of art were displayed along the hallways. In addition, there was an "Express Yourself" graffiti



Teachers Gabrielle Westbrook, Anitra Parker, and Victoria Smith.

wall and a tree for students and families to share their 2013 wishes.

A theatrical presentation was presented by 8th grade students. Students performed a scene from August Wilson's play entitled "Fences." The play is about the struggles of

an African American family living in the 1950s. Mikheal Wise, an 8th grade student, portrayed the main character Troy Maxson with confidence and humor alongside Destiny Ford and Brian Gibson who played Maxson's wife and son.

Under the direction of band director Richard Desinord, the middle school band students performed a

group of holiday selections from the Beginning Band course. Jefferson band members had the opportunity to perform with a variety of instruments such as the flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, horn, trumpet, trombone and percussion.

The evening was truly a success! The festival gave students and the community members an opportunity to celebrate and experience various forms of art created by Jefferson Academy students.

■ Renae Ramble teaches eighth grade at Jefferson Academy.



Vice Principal Patrick Rottman at Book Fair with Students.



Jefferson Teachers Leketa Wesley and Lincoln Campbell.

Community Calendar

View our on-line calendar at www.swdc.org/calendar.

FEBRUARY

FRI 1 6:30 P.M. Potluck; 7 P.M. Games. St. Augustine's Game Night. Bring a potluck dish to share. Board and card games provided, but feel free to bring your own games too. All ages welcome. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St. S.W., 202-554-3222 www.staugustinesdc.org or rector@staugustinesdc.org

SAT 2 3 P.M.-4 P.M. Walk a Sacred Path. The LABYRINTH opens the first Saturday of each month. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street, SW. The Labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool for meditation, prayer, inner guidance, and contemplation. Walking guides will be present to answer questions. www.westminsterdc.org.

SAT 2 4-5:30 P.M. Experience Yoga Nidra: Westminster "Jazz" Church, 400 I Street, SW. Pamela Wilson guides a very deep, conscious relaxation with the opportunity to set your intention. No experience in Yoga or meditation necessary. A donation of \$10 is suggested. For information call 202-746-6654 or email wilsonpj108@verizon.net.

SUN 3 2 P.M. SW ArtsFest Board meeting, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St. SW. For information call 202-484-8303 or email swartsfest@gmail.com

WED 6 7 P.M. St. Augustine's Art & Spirit Coffeehouse. In celebration of Black History Month, the Akoma Drummers will present music of the African Diaspora ranging from traditional West African to funk to DC's own go-go. Coffee and deserts, followed by audience Q&A. Free, donations accepted. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St. S.W., 202-554-3222; www.staugustinesdc.org or rector@staugustinesdc.org

THURS 7 8 -9:30 A.M. Councilman Tommy Wells office hours, Channel Inn café, 7th & Water Street S.W.

SAT 9 10:30 A.M. Family Storytime, SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. S.W.

MON 11 7-10 P.M. ANC6D Monthly Public Meeting, 1100 4th St. S.W., DCRA Hearing, Room on 2nd floor

WED 20 12 Noon luncheon meeting, AARP Southwest Waterfront Chapter 4751. Dr. Frank Smith Jr., Executive Director of The African American Civil War Memorial and Museum, speaking on "The 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation". The topic coincides with the 2013 Black History Month Theme, "At the Crossroads Of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation And The March on Washington". Current members and new prospective members are welcome. River Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave., S.W. For further information, contact Chapter President Evelyn Dorsey, Dorseydear@aol.com or 202-488-9685.

THURS 21 7-8:30 P.M. POLICE SERVICE AREA 105. Community meeting at Harbour Square, 560 N Street S.W.

SAT 23 1 P.M. Kitchen Table Book Discussion, SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. S.W. Copies of February title 'Notes of a Native Son' by James Baldwin, are available for checkout at the library.

MON 25 7-8:30 P.M. SWNA Community Meeting, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M Street S.W.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

AARP-SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT CHAPTER 4751, 12 NOON, Third Wednesday of each month. River Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave., S.W. For further information, contact Chapter President Evelyn Dorsey, Dorseydear@aol.com or 202-488-9685.

AEROBICS WITH MS. DEE, 6:30-7:30 P.M., Mondays and Thursdays, at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street S.W. FREE

BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street S.W., Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$5. Food for sale.

COMPUTER CLASSES, Thursday 10-12 Noon, SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. S.W.

THURS 7 Microsoft PowerPoint

THURS 14 Introduction to Personal Computers

THURS 21 World Wide Web Basics

THURS 28 District of Columbia Public Library website

MARCH 7 Email Basics

GIRLS SCOUTS TROOP #4298, WEDNESDAYS, 5:30-7:30 P.M., ages 5 to 12. King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street S.W. Call: 202-570-4475, Email: girlscoutsswdc@gmail.com

HAND DANCING CLASSES, SATURDAYS, 12-2 P.M., Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/class for adults, \$5/class for children 8-17. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street S.W., Community room off Wesley Place, S.W.

HAND DANCING CLASSES, SATURDAYS, 12:30-3:30 P.M., Mr. Zeke is teaching 18 years and older, King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street S.W. FREE

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, FRIDAYS, 6-9 P.M. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street S.W. Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$5. Food for sale.

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATER-

FRONT, 6:30-7:30 P.M., every first and third Monday Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street S.W.

NARFE-THE NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, 12:30-2:00 P.M., every fourth Thursday, September through May, at SW Library, 900 Wesley Place S.W.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 105, Community meeting, 7-8:30 P.M., every Third Thursday, Location announced at previous meeting.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 106, Community meeting, 10-11 A.M., every Last Saturday, Senior Citizen Community Room 900 5th Street S.E.

PRE SCHOOL STORYTIME, 10:30-11:30 A.M., Tuesdays and Thursdays, SW Library, 900 Wesley Place S.W.

SEATED YOGA, 11:00-Noon, Mondays, and Wednesdays 4-5 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church. Pamela Wilson guides a gentle series of movements designed to free the joints and ease the mind. This is part of Westminster's Wellness program.

SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA, Alcoholics Anonymous group, 8:30 P.M., Mondays, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M Street S.W., (202) 554-3222

SOUTHWEST SEWING GROUP, 9:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M., Mondays, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M Street S.W., Contact Mary Henderson at (301) 336-9058. Open to all interested in working on their own sewing projects and/or machine sewing skills. Mondays, except June, July and August.

SW FREEWAY, NA, 7-8 P.M., Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street S.W.

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB, 7-9 P.M., First and Third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade and sell stamps Refreshments, auctions and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street S.W. 202-863-0564

WEDNESDAY EVENING CHESS, 6:30-8:30 P.M., SW Library, 900 Wesley Place S.W.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street S.W., 4 P.M. Seated Yoga and Healing Sessions (Pamela Wilson and Riva Wine). 5 P.M. Tai Chi (Manifest Ra). 5:30 P.M. Laughter Yoga (Claire Trivedi). 6:45 P.M. Sampoorna Yoga (Alex Rosen). 7 P.M. Narcotics Anonymous SW Freeway Meeting.

■ Please submit calendar items by the 13th day of the preceding month to calendar@thesouthwester.com.



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Jefferson Academy students gather to help those affected by the Sandy Hook shooting. (Photo by Bruce DarConte)

Jefferson Academy Students Show Support to Sandy Hook

By Bruce DarConte

In the wake of the tragedy in Newtown, 20 young children and six adults have lost their lives in a senseless act of violence.

As Newtown and the nation mourn the loss and the issue of tighter gun control regulations has risen to the forefront of discourse, the students at Jefferson wanted to send a message of love to those affected by the violence at Sandy Hook Elementary.

As I entered Jefferson Academy on the early morning of December 19 for a meeting, I was greeted by friendly security staff who provided both tight access control while making me feel welcome.

Principal Gordon was standing by greeting students as they entered the building. The atmosphere was warm and inviting, yet Newtown was not far from everyone's mind.

Throughout that week, Jefferson students had been collecting stuffed animals to send to Connecticut to help put a smile on the faces of

those affected by the tragedy.

Student Isiah Lattimore said they wanted to show that we care about what's happening, while student Ajani Young said that he wanted to bring them some comfort.

Many students on this day had worn the Sandy Hook colors (white and green) and 7th grader Armani Scott had worn a tee shirt with the names of the victims.

Many boxes of stuffed animals had been collected and all will find good homes in Newtown.

As we grieve for the victims and their families and as we debate gun control, the students at Jefferson simply worked hard to help bring some joy during such a difficult time, which had fallen in the middle of the holiday season and should have been filled with laughter, joy and celebration.

■ *Bruce DarConte is Education Chair for the Community Benefits Coordinating Council and Treasurer-Elect for the First District Citizens Advisory Council, Metropolitan Police.*

Students Take Environmental Science to New Heights

By Patrick Rottman

When it comes to environmental science, most middle school science programs put together science fair boards or start a recycling program. This wasn't enough for the students of Jefferson Academy. This spring break, our local middle school will send 10 to 15 students to Costa Rica to gain a deeper understanding of the interactions between humans and the environment by studying the rainforest firsthand.

On the international trip, students will study wildlife and culture as they take trips to San Jose, Mount Arenal National Park, the Sarapiquí Rain Forest, Manuel Antonio National Park and the La Paz Waterfall Gardens. While in Costa Rica, students will stay in dorms and take day trips with a local guide to each location. Students who attend the trip will be required to complete research prior to the trip and share their experiences upon their return.

Assistant Principal Patrick Rottman is thrilled that the students will have this opportunity and is working to ensure the trip is available to as many students as possible. "A trip like this represents a considerable investment for many of our families and the school is working hard to reduce the cost through fundraising and support from local businesses. We're still seeking donations and support and I encourage any interested parties to reach out to the school and myself. The school is committed to opening this trip to as many students as possible and community support is essential," Rottman said.

This will be Jefferson Academy's first international trip and represents the school's efforts to promote a globally aware student body. The school is currently developing its International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program, which encourages broadening student learning through cross-curricular education, project-based learning and a focus on the world outside the classroom. For many students, this will be their first trip outside the United States. The school hopes this trip will become a yearly tradition and will grow in participation each year.

"We're excited to get students out of their comfort zone," said Marissa Alberty, Spanish teacher. "I love to travel and plan to share this love with our students. I am hopeful this trip will inspire our students to take a life-long interest in their environment as there is no substitute to witnessing the balance of nature firsthand, which can be hard to do in the middle of a large metropolitan area".

Taking a group of middle school students on an international trip is no small feat. School officials are busy helping families with passports, paperwork, and fundraising. Jefferson Academy has received a great deal of support from local businesses, community members, and friends of the school. However, the school is still looking for scholarship and material support.

If you would like contribute to the trip or fundraising efforts please contact Patrick Rottman at Patrick.Rottman@dc.gov.

■ *Patrick Rottman is assistant principal at Jefferson Academy.*

When I'm Sixty-Four

By D. Sherwood Chamberlain

I am a Baby Boomer, one of 75 million Americans representing 26 percent of the population. As a child, I hula-hooped, watched The Mickey Mouse Club and rode *Champion* my invisible golden palomino through the neighbors' flower beds. As a teen, I swooned over The Beatles and danced "The Twist." My hair was parted in the middle and hung down nearly to my waist. I wore mini-skirts, white go-go boots and hip-hugger pants. Today my wardrobe consists of polyester pull pants, loose blouses and jackets that cover my expansive middle.

As I rapidly slide down the short slope of the actuarial life table, my brain and body have become sluggish. Instead of becoming frustrated, I decided to embrace the aging process and take advantage of its perks; people give up their seats on the Metro for me, I enjoy the impertinence of telling a strange young man he is handsome and I rarely open a door for myself or carry my own packages. I make an effort to keep up with the fast pace of changing technology, although I am embarrassed to confess I recently told a sales associate at Staples I needed a new ribbon for my printer.

While searching for fun and stimulating ways to spend my golden years, I checked out some recreational opportunities at a Senior Center. I perused their catalog and found several things that piqued my interest. Among them were yoga, bingo, crafts and day trips. They also listed an afternoon senior get-together the following week. I signed up and paid the five dollar fee.

I arrived at the center promptly at 1pm, checked in and was then escorted to a large

room already filled with people sitting around eight foot long brown lunch tables. Everyone was handed two sheets of paper. On the pink sheet we were instructed to circle words such as January, February and March hidden inside a cluttered alphabet. On the blue sheet was a word jumble where we unscrambled words like elephant, fireman and encyclopedia.

At 1:30, snack time was announced. We were invited to help ourselves to coffee and cupcakes. A few minutes later we were told it was game time and to settle down and return to our seats. Our first game was "Let's Make a Deal." We had the option of choosing what was under box number one, box number two or box number three. I chose box number two and was rewarded with an orange Kazoo.

After all the boxes were uncovered and everyone received an orange Kazoo, we were given ten minutes for potty time while the staff set up the next game. Once again, we settled back into our chairs and played a rather unstructured game of "Wheel of Fortune." Our prizes consisted of unsold candy made by the members of the center as a fund raiser for the spring craft show a few months earlier.

At three o'clock the staff thanked us for coming then sent us home. I was disappointed time ran out before I got a chance to color a picture of a kitten or build a little house out of Popsicle sticks.

The senior center has an upcoming open forum inviting people to offer ideas for improving their services and programs. I plan on attending with a few tiny suggestions that might make next year's afternoon senior get-together a

See "Sixty-Four" page 9



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SWNA BOARD

From p. 1

Parents-Teachers Organization. And of course, SWNA is also the publisher of our own community newspaper, *The Southwester*.

As it does during each biennial election, SWNA is looking for candidates for its President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer positions, as well as eight district representatives. SWNA board members are community volunteers overseeing a variety of task forces within the neighborhood, on issues such as youth activities, emergency preparedness, and technology issues.

Two district representatives will be elected from each of the four districts in Near Southwest (with zip code 20024), with two representatives per neighborhood. (District 1 is the area north of M Street and west of 4th Street. District 2 is the area north of M Street and east of 4th Street. District 3 is the area south of M Street and west of Delaware Avenue. District 4 is the area south of M Street and east of Delaware Avenue.)

All residents aged 18 or older living in zip code 20024 are eligible to nominate and to vote in the election. To nominate yourself or someone else, and for more information on the positions and organization, please contact Morgan Gable, Nominating Chairperson, at SWNA-Election@thesouthwester.com by the morning of election day, March 9. The Nominations Committee will also entertain nominations from the floor during SWNA's general meeting on Monday, February 25. Ballots will list all nominated persons as long as those nominations are received by Friday, March 8.

All candidates are also invited to send a 100-word statement and a photo of themselves for publication in the March issue of *The Southwester*. Please email them to editor@thesouthwester.com no later than February 14.

Certain positions at *The Southwester* will also become open in March. On the production side, these include editor-in-chief, copy editor, and production editor, while on the finance side the positions of advertising manager and business manager will be open. *The Southwester* depends on volunteers from the community to sustain its operations. If you are interested in volunteering in these or other capacities, contact the current staff at editor@thesouthwester.com.

SIXTY-FOUR

From p. 8

bit more interesting.

My first proposal is that the word jumble include terms more pertinent to our generation such as: ruenkdaetr (undertaker), ycopoclonso (colonoscopy) and ysraemgerduasy (sameday-surgery). The coffee and cupcakes were nice but I would recommend an open bar or even a cash bar. That leads me to a few game ideas. Perhaps every time a staff member uses the phrase, "That's OK, I'll clean it up" we could toss back a shotglass of tequila.

The prizes should be a little more befitting the neighborhood elder population. A key chain flashlight, container of Metamucil or a pair of battery powered heated socks would all be appreciated and likely trigger some fierce competition among us old folks. I might even suggest adding a naptime and allowing us to choose a naptime buddy.

■ *D. Sherwood Chamberlain is a professional speaker and writer specializing in the history of America's First Ladies. You can view her website at www.deborahjonessherwood.com.*

Salute to a Community Legend

By Wallace Perry

The Southwest community recently lost a gifted legend in Walter "BoRo" Westray. "Bo," as he was known to friends and family, was a long-time Southwest resident who gave his time and dedicated service to our youth as the coach at the Police #4 Boys and Girls Club (located in Bowen Elementary School) during the late 1980s and 1990s.

His 16 & under basketball teams were well known for their championships and production of future high school stars.

Coach Bo won over five Boys/Girls club championships in the 14 & under and 16 & under age groups from 1994 to 2002. His teams produced such Southwest stars as David Carson (Wilson HS), Paul "Big South" Taylor (Wilson HS), Henry Willoughby (Wilson HS), George Richardson (Wilson HS) and countless others who lives were impacted by the leadership and mentoring of Coach Bo.



Coach Walter Westray (far right) with his under-16 basketball team in 1982.

The strength of Coach Bo was his uncanny ability to teach the lessons of life to all whose paths he crossed. Basketball and baseball were the catches for his teachings. Just as one would absorb the skills and technique of his sports lessons, he could hold their interest as he explains the importance of becoming a productive person in society. Coach Bo always held such sessions after every practice with

his teams. These lessons were displayed as a kid growing up on L Street, as told by some who reminisce on the childhood friendship they had with Coach Bo.

Longtime friend James Shaw stated, "I can remember as kids we all would gravitate to Bo's front porch on a daily basis because he had knowledge about sports."

Joe Brawner, who played baseball with Coach Bo at Spingarn High School said, "He was the kindest and most genuine person I have ever known."

Walter Westray lived in the Southwest community for over 40 years. He graduated in 1977 from Spingarn, where he was a star football and baseball player. Those who knew him all would agree that he gave his all to the Southwest community he loved.

■ Wallace Perry is Director of Roving Leaders, DC Department of Parks and Recreation.



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ARENA

From p. 12

the strange and yet familiar forces of change or *Metamorphoses* re-affirm that destruction can be transformed to something new.

Pulitzer Prize winning playwright David Lindsay-Abaire says that we have this myth of the American Dream that if you work hard and make sacrifices, you can accomplish anything.

Good People, his dark comedy about class, fate and economic hardship, is set in South Boston's Lower End, where "Southie" native Margie is a single mother facing eviction. In this hardscrabble section of the inner city — a far cry from the lush setting for the Greek gods—the dream of a myth does not add up.

Lindsay-Abaire says that you need luck and opportunity, and you need luck to recognize an opportunity. How Maggie figures out that hard work and sacrifice don't work and comes up with a scheme to fix her financial problems might be subversive, but with a little bit of luck, maybe her dream will come through.

The Grand Parade (of the 20th Century) is an original world premiere inspired by the multi-layered paintings of Marc Chagall.

Major events of 20th century history—the landing on the moon, the world wars, the escapes of Houdini, the atomic bomb, Hitler's concentration camps and Kennedy's assassination—all spin together reflecting Chagall's vision of humanity, the stuff from which myths and dreams arise.

Using trapeze, circus, dance and projections from film, television and photography, the performers with Chagall as muse recount these stories of wonders and horrors for a unique theatrical experience.

■ *Sheila Wickowski is a freelance arts and culture journalist and longtime resident of Southwest who has contributed work on history, theater, music, and the arts to area publications for more than 20 years.*



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Lighted Boat Parade

The Washington Channel was aglow in December with well over a dozen vessels that participated in a lighted boat parade.

(Photos by Saadia Athias)



Capitol Riverfront BID Hosts Annual Meeting

Courtesy of the Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District

On Jan. 16 the Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District (BID) hosted over 300 attendees at its 5th Year Celebration and Annual Meeting Luncheon, and released the State of the Capitol Riverfront Report and Executive Summary of the Urban Design Framework Plan.

BID Executive Director Michael Stevens moderated a panel discussion with Former Mayor and Federal City Council CEO Anthony Williams, Neighborhood Restaurant Group Owner Michael Babin, Grosvenor Americas Senior Vice President of Development Don Capobres, Urban Atlantic President Vicki Davis and WC Smith Chairman & CEO Chris Smith. Panelists discussed their perspective on the past, present and future of the Capitol Riverfront neighborhood and why they saw it beneficial to invest in the neighborhood.

Mike Rizzo, VP of Baseball Operations for the Washington Nationals Baseball Club, also attended and provided remarks on the upcoming 2013 season as well as a review of the 2012 season that saw the Nationals win the National League Eastern Division pennant.

In addition, Michael Stevens provided an update on the state of the Capitol Riverfront neighborhood, highlighting the following five major accomplishments of 2012:

1. 50,000 square feet of retail leases signed including VIDA Fitness, Osteria Morini Italian restaurant and Gordon Biersch.
2. The release of *GreenPrint of Growth* study about population growth, job creation and investment along DC's Green Line Metrorail Corridor.
3. The opening of Canal Park, DC's new 3-acre environmentally sustainable urban park with an outdoor seasonal ice skating rink and water features.
4. The completion of 200 I Street, a renovation of the old Washington Post print building into 350,000 square feet of office that is now home to 1,200 employees and an art gallery.
5. The Washington Nationals winning the National League Eastern Division pennant and

UDFP's Top Five Initiatives

The Capitol Riverfront BID also released an Executive Summary of the Urban Design Framework Plan (UDFP), a strategy to capitalize on the current momentum in the neighborhood and further accelerate the Capitol Riverfront's development into a new kind of DC waterfront—a connected, vibrant neighborhood of urban density, regional attractions and distinct local amenities.

The top five initiatives of the UDFP include:

1. Regional Transit—providing a direct high capacity transit link from Union Station to the Capitol Riverfront and then continuing to the St. Elizabeths campus. This transit connection can provide flexibility, redundancy, new access to where people want to travel and relief to the regional metro system.
2. Local Circulation—an interconnected and flexible grid connecting Eye Street SE, Virginia Avenue SE and L Street SE can relieve pressure from M Street SE to better distribute traffic and possibly open up new development opportunities.
3. Open Space—the open space framework seeks to better link existing parks and provide new opportunities for active recreation, relaxation and community events.
4. Civic Framework—civic destinations are as critical to a complete community as retail activators. Key opportunities include the re-opening of the Van Ness elementary school site as well as the development of the Arthur Capper Carrollsburg Recreation Center.
5. Clustered Retail & Interim Uses—retail use activates the public realm by attracting residents and visitors and is essential to achieving an urban, high density environment. Near-term interim uses and future retail should be clustered at the core of the community to create a dynamic neighborhood.

hosting over 2.4 million fans during the 2012 baseball season.

Stevens also noted that the Capitol Riverfront BID had been approved for another five years of operations through the BID reauthorization process with the DC Government.

The BID honored the accomplishments of the Clean & Safe Team over the past five years, highlighting the significant increase in the neighborhood's cleanliness and safety. Results of the 2007 Capitol Riverfront Perception Survey showed only 6% of people felt the neighborhood was "clean or very clean" and "safe or very safe."

Today, five years later, the 2012 perception survey results have reached 93% of respondents answering that the BID is "clean or very clean" and 73% perceiving the BID as "safe or very safe." A commemorative video was shown to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of our Clean & Safe Team and crew members were presented with awards for their outstanding work over the past year.

Michael Stevens, Executive Director of the BID, commented: "It has been a successful 5 years of operations in the Capitol Riverfront and the next five years will be even more pivotal as we deliver neighborhood support retail, continue to develop a high quality public realm, work to improve regional transit access and continue to build a vibrant residential base. Our efforts will also focus on the creation of a range of civic uses and temporary uses that can further animate our public realm and support the neighborhood's ongoing development. And, Go Nationals!"

For more information visit the Capitol Riverfront website at www.capitolriverfront.org including a downloadable copy of the Annual Report and UDFP Executive Summary. The Capitol Riverfront BID encompasses approximately 500 acres between the US Capitol building and the Anacostia River. Upon build-out the Capitol Riverfront will have 15.5 million square feet of office space, 9,800 residential units, 1,200 hotel rooms, more than 1 million square feet of retail space, four new parks and a riverwalk trail.

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*Want to Go?***Three Productions Open at Arena This Month**

By Sheila Wickouski

“Dreams are private myths, myths are public dreams. So said modern mythologist Joseph Campbell. Arena Stage’s three shows in February are fine examples of what he meant.

Gods and mortals gather in a giant pool in the in-the-round stage to re-enact Ovid’s lyrical ancient myths of romance, family, loss

and redemption in Mary Zimmerman’s magical interpretation *Metamorphoses*.

MacArthur “Genius” Zimmerman has said that the stories are about the central fact of life—that change is inescapable. Myths are what binds humans together, giving comfort in that they re-affirm that change is the only constant. In this stunning production,

See “Arena,” page 10

WHAT: David Lindsay-Abaire’s *Good People***WHERE & WHEN:** Kreeger Theater from Feb.1-Mar.10, 2013**SOUTHWEST NIGHT:** Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m.**WHAT:** Mary Zimmerman’s *Metamorphoses***WHERE & WHEN:** Fichandler Stage from Feb. 8-Mar.17, 2013**SOUTHWEST NIGHT:** Feb.17 at 7:30 p.m.**WHAT:** Double Edge Theatre’s *The Grand Parade (of the 20th Century)***WHERE & WHEN:** Arlene and Robert Kogood Cradle from Feb. 6-10.

COST AND INFORMATION FOR ARENA SHOWS: Tickets vary from \$25-\$85 depending on performance and may be purchased online at arenastage.org, by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth St., SW, D.C. For info on discounts visit arenastage.org/shows-tickets/single-tickets/savings-programs

SPECIAL EVENT FOR THE GRAND PARADE: Director Stacy Klein and members of the company discuss how Chagall’s art inspired this wordless music-infused spectacle and demonstrate through video, costumes, and props some of that artistry on stage at Arena.

WHERE & WHEN: The Phillips Collection on Jan. 31 at 6 p.m.

INFORMATION: Feb. 6–10. \$20; \$8 for members. Registration required: www.phillipscollection.org/events*

Akoma Drummers to Perform at Art & Spirit Coffeehouse

By Elaine F. Graves

A West African drum troupe, the Akoma Drummers, will be the featured entertainment at the Feb. 6, 7 p.m. program of St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church’s Art and Spirit Coffeehouse, 600 M St. SW. To celebrate Black History Month, the diverse group of drummers and percussionists will perform music of the African Diaspora ranging from traditional West African to funk and DC’s own go-go. Coffee and desserts will be served throughout the evening, followed by Q&A.

The Akoma Drummers was formed in 2010 when DC drum lady Kristen Arant and Ghanaian master drummer Michael Kweku Owusu brought their drummer friends and students together for weekly jam sessions.

In the Adinkra symbolic language of West Africa, *Akoma* means the heart and represents patience and tolerance. Their instruments are various drums such as the congas, djembes and dununs and the Shekere, a bead-covered gourd.

In addition to hearing lively and spirited music, the origin and use of the drums, bells and shakers used by the troupe will be demonstrated and explained. Co-founders Arant and Owusu will also discuss how they each teach drumming to both young people and adults, especially to help raise self-esteem among young women, and to raise awareness for impoverished children both in Ghana and DC.

Additional key performers in the drum troupe include Alphonso Coles, Laura Costas,



Kweku Owusu of the Akoma Drummers. (Photo by Gabriel Jones)

Katy Gaughan, Renee Panagos, Ken Quam, Linette Tobin and Rakhel Yisrael.

The Southwest Episcopal Church’s Art & Spirit Coffeehouse series opens on the first Wednesday of each month to showcase local artists in their various media as they perform and share how their faith, art and social worldview intersect, according to the Rev. Martha Clark, Priest-in-Charge at St. Augustine’s. Donations will be accepted to help provide honoraria for the guest artists.

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